

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



June 20, 2011

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As a farmer and a state legislator representing rural areas in southern Washington, I know what access to technology means for rural and agricultural communities like mine. It is with that in mind that I write to add my support to that of other rural leaders in favor of the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA.

Expanding rural access to mobile broadband has been a priority for local, state and federal governments alike over the last few years. Doing so in many cases, however, has proven to be cost-prohibitive and has slowed or stalled out deployment. Through this merger, AT&T will be able to provide mobile broadband access to tens of millions more Americans, reaching more than 97% of the nation's population. To be able to achieve that public benefit through private investment, without spending tax dollars, is remarkable during difficult economic conditions. I expect additional job growth to result from more businesses and consumers having access to wireless broadband connections. That in turn will lead to more investment in rural areas and additional employment opportunities for more rural communities.

I trust that you will keep the objective of expanded broadband to much of America in mind as you weigh the merits of this merger. I thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the merger's approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Chandler".

Bruce Chandler  
Washington State Representative